

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JASON R. BRANNIGAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

RHEA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-00725-JDP (PC)

ORDER THAT THE CLERK OF COURT  
ASSIGN A DISTRICT JUDGE TO THIS  
ACTION

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
THAT THE FIRST AMENDED  
COMPLAINT BE DISMISSED FOR  
FAILURE TO STATE A COGNIZABLE  
CLAIM

ECF No. 13

Plaintiff brings this section 1983 case against defendant Rhea and two “Does” for deprivation of his personal property. ECF No. 13 at 3. The claim is, for the reasons stated below, not cognizable. Given that the deficiency in this complaint is identical to its predecessor, I find that further leave to amend is unwarranted and will recommend dismissal without leave to amend.

**Screening Order**

**I. Screening and Pleading Requirements**

A federal court must screen a prisoner’s complaint that seeks relief against a governmental entity, officer, or employee. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The court must identify any cognizable

1 claims and dismiss any portion of the complaint that is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a  
2 claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is  
3 immune from such relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915A(b)(1), (2).

4 A complaint must contain a short and plain statement that plaintiff is entitled to relief,  
5 Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2), and provide “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its  
6 face,” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). The plausibility standard does not  
7 require detailed allegations, but legal conclusions do not suffice. *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S.  
8 662, 678 (2009). If the allegations “do not permit the court to infer more than the mere  
9 possibility of misconduct,” the complaint states no claim. *Id.* at 679. The complaint need not  
10 identify “a precise legal theory.” *Kobold v. Good Samaritan Reg’l Med. Ctr.*, 832 F.3d 1024,  
11 1038 (9th Cir. 2016). Instead, what plaintiff must state is a “claim”—a set of “allegations that  
12 give rise to an enforceable right to relief.” *Nagrampa v. MailCoups, Inc.*, 469 F.3d 1257, 1264  
13 n.2 (9th Cir. 2006) (en banc) (citations omitted).

14 The court must construe a pro se litigant’s complaint liberally. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404  
15 U.S. 519, 520 (1972) (per curiam). The court may dismiss a pro se litigant’s complaint “if it  
16 appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which  
17 would entitle him to relief.” *Hayes v. Idaho Corr. Ctr.*, 849 F.3d 1204, 1208 (9th Cir. 2017).  
18 However, ““a liberal interpretation of a civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements  
19 of the claim that were not initially pled.”” *Bruns v. Nat’l Credit Union Admin.*, 122 F.3d 1251,  
20 1257 (9th Cir. 1997) (quoting *Ivey v. Bd. of Regents*, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982)).

## 21 **II. Analysis**

22 Plaintiff alleges that in June 2022, he was slated for a transfer to CSP-Sacramento. ECF  
23 No. 13 at 3. After his personal property was inventoried, he witnessed defendant Rhea removing  
24 some items. *Id.* Then, when he arrived at CSP-Sacramento, he discovered that over three  
25 hundred dollars’ worth of items had been removed. *Id.* Plaintiff alleges that among the lost  
26 property were items with sentimental value. *Id.* As I explained in my previous screening order,  
27 “an unauthorized intentional deprivation of property by a state employee does not constitute a  
28 violation of the procedural requirements of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment

1 if a meaningful postdeprivation remedy for the loss is available.” *Hudson v. Palmer*, 468 U.S.  
2 517, 533 (1984). And California provides such a remedy, *see Barnett v. Centoni*, 31 F.3d 813,  
3 816-17 (9th Cir. 1994), that plaintiff does not allege he has availed himself of. Plaintiff does  
4 allege that he filed a prison grievance concerning his lost property, ECF No. 13 at 7, but this is  
5 not the same as utilizing the state’s postdeprivation remedy provided in Cal. Gov’t Code §§ 810-  
6 895. If plaintiff did, in fact, avail himself of this remedy, he may state as much in his objections  
7 to these recommendations. Otherwise, his claim for loss of personal property is foreclosed.

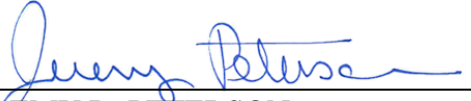
8 Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the Clerk of Court is directed to assign a district judge  
9 to this action.

10 Further, it is RECOMMENDED that the first amended complaint, ECF No. 13, be  
11 DISMISSED without leave to amend for failure to state a claim.

12 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge  
13 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days  
14 after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written  
15 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned  
16 “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Any response to the  
17 objections shall be served and filed within fourteen days after service of the objections. The  
18 parties are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to  
19 appeal the District Court’s order. *Turner v. Duncan*, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998); *Martinez*  
20 *v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

21  
22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Dated: November 29, 2023

24   
25 JEREMY D. PETERSON  
26 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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